

there are one or two points which may be noticed in passing. The Sponges are retained as a sub-group of the Rhizopoda in the sub-kingdom Protozoa. Possibly the first pages of this work were in type before the separation of the Spongida from the Protozoa, which is now generally accepted, was so strongly insisted on by biologists. It is well, however, for students to be reminded that the Sponges are regarded by most naturalists as presenting a higher type of organization than is found in the Protozoa.

In the first part of this volume the name Conchifera is used for the bivalve Mollusca. This is to be regretted, inasmuch as the term is incorrect, unless it can be used to include all the shell-bearing Mollusks. In the latter part of the appendix, Pelecypoda is used instead of Conchifera. It may be that the latter name has priority, but surely it is not so appropriate nor so correct as that of Lamellibranchiata, which has for so long been in general use; and it seems questionable whether this reversion to old names, for groups of animals, is justifiable.

Perhaps the most difficult part of the work which Mr. Etheridge has undertaken is the correction of specific synonymy, and specialists in certain groups may possibly be inclined to differ from him; but those who have done most in the endeavour to rectify the synonyms of fossil species will best appreciate the difficulty of the task, and be most ready to make allowance for any difference of opinion in these matters.

There are few palæontologists who have such a grasp of the entire range of British fossils as Mr. Etheridge, and probably none better qualified for the work, the first part of which is here so successfully accomplished. The author is to be congratulated on the completion of so much of his task, and on the admirable manner in which it has been printed and published.

That the book has been printed by the Clarendon Press is sufficient guarantee of its excellence. The careful typing and arrangement, as well as the clear printing and good paper, are all that could be wished for, and add greatly to its value.

It is much to be desired that the Secondary and Tertiary portions of this catalogue should speedily be in the hands of geologists; but one reads with regret, in a note at the end of the preface, that the pressure of official duties will prevent the author preparing these parts for publication, although the manuscript is practically complete. It is sincerely to be hoped that the delay may be of short duration, and that Mr. Etheridge will shortly see his way to the completion of this valuable work, which every geologist and palæontologist ought to possess, as it must of necessity be for many years the standard work of reference for British fossils.

E. T. N.

YORKSHIRE LEGENDS AND TRADITIONS.

Yorkshire Legends and Traditions, as told by her Ancient Chroniclers, her Poets, and Journalists. By the Rev. Thos. Parkinson, F.R.Hist.S., &c. (London: Elliot Stock, 1888.)

LEGENDARY LORE has its interest if not its value to the anthropologist as well as to the philologist. It sometimes happens that a word has given rise to a

legend, and that the existence of a legend or tradition indicates identity of race, or a common origin of two widely separated peoples. The science of philology in particular welcomes the data in legends and traditions faithfully given in the vernacular, and undoubtedly affords in its turn a scientific explanation of the origin or meaning of some of them.

The limitation in the title of the present work does no small injustice to the subject, and to the qualifications of the author for treating it, as it excludes many of the most interesting, most local, and most characteristic of Yorkshire legends and traditions, which must be well known to so true a Yorkshireman as the Rev. Thos. Parkinson. This, however, is only a first instalment or "wainload of the marvellous from this county of broad acres," and as such is acceptable. It would be well if the author were to give references to all the principal sources of these legends, as some of them are found in more than one shape, and different versions of the same story sometimes present details which identify the legend with a third legend found perhaps in a distant locality, or with more than one such, thereby proving a still more remote common origin. We will presently exemplify this in the Handale legend. Our author has grouped his materials under nine heads: legends and traditions connected with the early history of Yorkshire; those of abbeys and monastic life; of Satanic agency; Barguest and ghost legends; Mother Shipton; dragons and serpents; battle-fields; legends of wells, lakes, &c.; and miscellaneous legends. The name of *Eboracum*, or York, has proved a fertile source of legends, several of which are collected in the opening chapter; its true origin, not being scientifically demonstrable, is, as our author justly observes, "buried in obscurity." Of the legends connected with the coming of the Danes, that of "Buern the Busecarle" (pp. 10-14), taken from the translation in the "Church Historians of England" (by the Rev. Jos. Stephenson) of the Anglo-Norman "Metrical Chronicle" of Geoffrey Gaimar, written in Stephen's reign, is of historic interest, and receives further elucidation and support from the self-evident fact that "Buern Busecarle" is a Scandinavian or Old Norse and not an English name and title. Björn Bús-Karl = "Björn the farmer of the King's estates," or the "Karl" (A.S. ceorl) of the Konungs-bú or royal demesnes, as he is, in fact, described in the legend. It was because he was a Northman that he called in the aid of the Danes, including Northmen, when his wife was dishonoured by King Osbert, as related by Gaimar. Passing by numerous legends, among which that of the death of King Ella, and the probable site of Ellsworth and Ellecroft or Ellecross is interesting, we note (p. 96) that the horn of Ulphus, or Ulfr, a Norseman who, about the time of King Canute, governed in the western part of Deira, is "a portion of the tusk of an elephant, about 3 feet long." The author excites the reader's curiosity by adding that "round the thick end are engraved a number of emblematic figures, in some respects not unlike those found on Egyptian and Assyrian monuments." Surely there must be extant some expert opinion as to the species of elephant, as to the date and nationality of the workmanship, and whether the tusk was brought from the East, already engraved, by the far-roving Northmen—but here our author fails us. The "Filey

Haddock Legend" (p. 121) appeared in Hone's "Table Book," 1838, ii. p. 638, signed "T. C."

We are compelled to pass over much interesting matter, such as the legend of the submerged town in Semerwater (for which see also Barker, "Wensleydale," 1856, p. 239), which is also told of Gormire Lake, of Lough Neagh, and is one of the legends of the Rhine. Gormire Lake is formed on the back of a landslip. The original version of the pretty ballad on the legend of the Troller's Gill (p. 127) and of Billy B.'s adventure (p. 130) is given in Hone's "Table Book," 1838. The article is signed "T. Q. M.," the *nom de plume* of the late Dr. J. H. Dixon in the "Table Book." Also our author's "Wise Woman of Littondale" (p. 134), from the "Table Book," ii. p. 775, signed "T. Q. M.," is one of Dr. Dixon's productions. With regard to the probable site of "Stoknmore" (p. 162) a local tradition identifies the erect column of stone, 11 feet high, known as the "Long Stoop," on Yeadon Moor, as the subject of Mother Shipton's prophecy "then will ravens sit on the cross, and drink as much blood of the nobles as of the commons."

With reference to the Handale legend (p. 168), the version there given is taken from the *Leisure Hour* for May 1878, but that, in its turn, is almost word for word taken from Ord's "History of Cleveland," 1846, p. 283, as related by Mr. Marr, then tenant of Handale farm. Another original version obtained by the present writer from Mr. Robert D. Watson, of Loftus-in-Cleveland, describes the hero as "a shoemaker of the name of Scaw" [O.N. Skór, a *shoe*] who "had a suit of clothes made into which he had by some means stitched all over it razor-blades edge outwards," an item which is identical with that given by our author (p. 171) of the slayer of "the dragon of Loschy Wood." Though our author does not include Beowulf among his legends of Yorkshire, we are of opinion that the able demonstration of Mr. Haigh, in his "Anglo-Saxon Sagas," 1861 (which can now be supported by additional facts, overlooked by him, such as the two coins of "Hæreth," found in Northumbria and engraved in Hickeys's "Thesaurus," 1705, iii. p. 168), that Cleveland was the scene of the principal event recorded in Beowulf, remains unshaken by the numerous foreign and English commentaries that have since appeared on the subject. We cannot doubt that the "Grendel" destroyed by Beowulf was a religious house at "Grendale, afterwards Handale," as appears by a charter, anno 1133 (Charlton, p. 90), but space forbids doing more than noting the omission. There are some grievous misprints, e.g. "bretwalder" for "Bretwalda" (p. 11), "Worsaal" for "Worsae" (p. 221), "Upsalier" for "Upsalir" (p. 222).

Among the miscellaneous legends is one called "Swine Harrie" (p. 219) apparently belonging to deer-stealing days, and found in various forms. It appeared in Hone's "Table Book," 1838, ii. p. 722. The thief in carrying his burden home slips in crossing a rock or wall, and is hung by the cord. It should, however, be observed that "Hanging" is a common epithet in the Pennine Hills, e.g. "Hanging Stones." *Aprópos* of this legend "there is a crag on Embsay Moor called 'Deer Gallows,' and it is said a deer was once hanged there. There is a deep crevasse in the rock becoming narrower toward the bottom, and—the story goes—a deer once fell down and

caught with its horns across, and so was hanged" (J. J. Wilkinson). "Gallas" or "gallowses" in the dialect means "braces." The name "hanging" as applied to rocks alludes to some physical feature, but may have localized the legend.

Among the excluded legends we may mention the pretty legend of the "Walling in the Cuckoo," by "t' Hoastik Carles" (the Austwick Carles) and "the funny one of Wengby," "Meal Ark Spring," "Hobthrush Hall," "Simon Amangus," and many others. The legend of "Wallin' in t' Cuckoo" has a wide range, and is told of various villages in the Northern counties. We have heard it in Borrowdale. It is told of Austwick, near Settle, that, seeing a cuckoo in a tree, the carles began to build a wall round it to keep it, and its consequent, the summer, always there, and they were very much astonished when it flew away.

There is another legend of Austwick:—

"T' Austwick Carles cried 'Whittle ta t' tree,'
Lifted t' bull ower t' yet, an t' pig into t' stee."

"There was only one 'whittle' or butcher's knife in Austwick, and when anyone wanted it he went to the tree in the middle of the village in which it was kept stuck. If it were not there, he cried 'Whittle ta t' tree!' three times, and whoever had it was bound to bring it." In the glossary to "Studies in Nidderdale," 1882, p. 291, occurs the article "Wittaled. 'Ah've gittan fas'en'd ta t'sod, if ah aint gittan wittaled ta t'tree.'—*Nid. Al.*, 1880. *Wel.* Gwydaw, *to grow woody*; gwyden, *a tree*; gwyddawl, rudimental; so 'wittaled' means rooted to the tree so as to form part of its wood, grafted." Here, the legend evidently takes its origin in the similarity of sound of the two words "whittle," a *butcher's knife*, a familiar word, and "wittaled," *grafted*, a forgotten word preserved in the phrase "wittaled ta t'tree." As to lifting the bull over the gate, they were too simple to know that the gate was meant to open (J. J. Wilkinson). These are samples of the excluded but most interesting legends, which will, we hope, find a place in our author's promised second series.

JOSEPH LUCAS.

FOREIGN BIOLOGICAL MEMOIRS.

Translations of Foreign Biological Memoirs. Vol. I. *Memoirs on the Physiology of Nerve, of Muscle, and of the Electrical Organ.* Edited by J. Burdon-Sanderson, M.D., F.R.S.S.L. and E. (Oxford: Clarendon Press, 1887.)

THIS volume is the firstfruits of a scheme which was started some years ago. The original intention was to translate and put before English readers as soon as possible after their publication the most important foreign papers on various biological subjects. Owing to various difficulties, the original scheme had to be altered, with the result that the first volume of the proposed series has taken the form of the present book.

Prof. Burdon-Sanderson has in this volume confined himself to that subject in which he himself is especially interested—viz. the physiology of nerve, muscle, and the electrical organ—and has collected and edited the translations of the most important papers which have appeared in the German language during the last five years on this